

Carroll, Rhonda

From: joanne stewart <tonys20hd@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2016 9:08 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Bill 346

My name is Joanne KC Stewart, I reside at 39 Glendale Road, enfield Ct 06082 and I am writing in support of bill # 346.

On November 17, 2002, my step-son, Johnathen L Stewart was the victim of a hit and run accident. Motor vehicle vs. Pedestrian. Because of this accident, Johnathen lost his life.

The opporator of the motor vehicle, Daniel Corsini, struck Johnathen, left the scene of the crime, went home and went to sleep. Meanwhile , Johnathen was lying in the snow, dying, waiting for someone to find him. 5 hours later, someone driving by had his eye caught by the bright blue of Johnathen's sweatshirt showing through the snow that was partially covering him. He backed up to find this 19 year old boy freezing to death, barely holding on to life. This passer-by did exactly what Daniel Corsini should have, this passer-by called for help. Unfortunately, Johnathen was pronounced dead shortly after arriving to the hospital.

The days that follow the accident create heartache beyond any heartache a parent should ever know. Brian k stewart, Johnathen's father, sitting by John's side, praying for any miracle. But no miracle was to belong to brian as the hospital staff gently reminded him that the sooner john was taken off the machines that were keeping him "alive", the sooner his donated organs could be harvested.

For 13 years the Stewart family waited, hoping for answers, for a name, for some justice for Johnathen. Holding candle light vigils every year on 11/17 at the sight of where his body was found. Reaching out to the press, asking to republish the story, hoping someone would do the right thing.

On December 11th a phone call came. The enfield ct police dept had some information about John's case. I called brian, told him he must come home at once. When we arrived at the station, we were greeted immediately and escorted to the Chiefs office. "We have received a written confession." Immediately I was overcome with a sense of relief, finally this person will be held responsible for the horrible crime he committed. But the officers next statement was crushing, it was a knife that just ripped the wound back open. "We are unable to make an arrest due to the statute of limitations."

The next two weeks were just waiting for another call. It came on 12/23/15, "The case is officially closed, we have a copy of the case file for you." I was at work, I immediately went to the station, driven by one of my managers, to pick up the police report. Brian and I read the entire police report that night.

According to daniel corsini, in his confession, he'd been out drinking, he described hitting johnathen, the sound it made. He also stated he woke up the next morning unable to remember what happened until he saw his jeep and the damage that had been done to it.

And here is where it gets even more Interesting. He stated that he took the Jeep to his friends house, richard kress, where they took off the hood and grill of the jeep to later dispose of them in the dumpster at suffield meadows. This was followed by bringing the vehicle In it's remaining state to marks auto to be crushed, destroying any evidence that was left.

My question is, how does one admit to drinking and driving, striking down a pedestrian, leave the scene of the crime, not bother to even make an anomonus call, cover up the crime, and evade responsibility for 13+ years and because more than 5 years has passed, gets to walk scott free?

Daniel Corsini killed my step-son, Purposefully or not, he took what wasn't his to take. My son, Johnathen's brother, will never know his brother. I'm the one who had to explain when he asked why john never came over to play with him.

I'm the one who has to remind my husband that it's okay to be happy, that it is not an injustice to John for him to be happy.

I understand that daniel will live with what he did for the rest of his life. But it really doesn't bring comfort, knowing it took 13+ years fo him to finally come forward. No statement of apology to the family. As far as I've seen, no remorse.

Punishment for crimes such as the above need to be greater. It's absolutely appalling that in this day and age one can be arrested for a laps in vehicle registration but walk free if they use that vehicle to kill someone, leave the scene, evade responsibility and hide for 13 years.

Justice needs to be had for family's such as mine. And I look forward to a day where such crimes are as unacceptable to our justice system as they are to the people our justice system originally set out to protect.